

in college if you just try, a lot of them do that. When we tell them that abstinence works, it does work and they see the proof in the pudding. But if we tell them nothing, then they have no standards, no goals to reach.

So I suggest it is working not just because of statistics I see on paper, but looking into eyes of students I get to talk to, and they tell me it is working.

Mr. UPTON. I appreciate the gentleman's leadership. In the days past, and, obviously, in the days ahead, we have some big votes next week if we take this welfare reform bill up. This is an important component of that. I am delighted we passed it out of my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, on a strong vote of 35 to 17, and we have to make sure we carry the day when we take this issue to the House floor for debate next week.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Heritage Community Services was formed as a coalition of community-based abstinence educators from across South Carolina with combined experience in the field totaling nearly 75 years. It was awarded a Title V abstinence education grant for implementing a state-wide program in 1998. Schools and communities have responded enthusiastically.

The Heritage programs are community-wide, serving more than 29,000 adolescents. The program's founder and CEO, Mrs. Anne Badgley, has been invited to address a number of Title V training programs across the country, as well as brief Pentagon undersecretaries of defense, the Army and Navy, and has testified before Congress.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order just given.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

THE ABCs OF SECURING THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House and Nation tonight for a few minutes. The Blue Dog Coalition is going to use this hour to talk a little bit about ABCs.

Mr. Speaker, some may wonder, well, that is unusual for the Blue Dogs to be talking about the ABCs, but let me tell you a little bit about the Blue Dogs. We are a group of 33 Members of Congress, men and women, from all around the Nation that spends a great deal of our focus and efforts and time and resources here in Congress asking the Congress to act responsibly in its fiscal and budgeting matters.

We believe that this Congress and this Nation in the last year-plus has moved away from fiscal responsibility, and, as a result, we are endangering our children's future. So what we want to do tonight, Mr. Speaker, is talk about the ABCs of securing our children's future.

When Congress considered the budget last year, Mr. Speaker, the Blue Dogs warned about the danger of making long-term commitments for tax cuts or new spending programs based on projected surpluses. In less than a year's time, we have seen a dramatic reversal of the once promising budgetary outlook. We now face projections of deficits and increasing debt for the rest of the decade that go far beyond the temporary impact of the economic downturn or cost of the war on terrorism.

Congress and the President need to sit down, we need to roll up our sleeves, and we need to have an honest and open discussion about what we need to do as a Nation, as a Congress, to put the budget back in order, starting with the ABCs of fiscal discipline.

The Blue Dogs have outlined four solutions to avoid leaving our children and our grandchildren with the consequences of today's irresponsible budgeting decisions. The members of the Blue Dogs who are here tonight to address this House are going to talk about those four solutions. I want to outline them very briefly.

Number one is assuring honesty and accountability. We believe that the Budget Act of 1990, which expires later this year, should be reinstituted by this Congress. Unless we renew our budget discipline, Congress will continue to find ways to break its own rules and pass more legislation that puts more red ink on the national ledger.

The Budget Enforcement Act, of course, has two major provisions. One, it sets in place discretionary spending limits for 5 years; secondly, it extends and expands pay-go rules. The pay-go rule is simply legislation that says that mandatory spending or revenues that increase the deficit must be offset.

Secondly, the "B" of the ABCs is balancing the budget without raiding Social Security. We believe that this Congress should pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution which makes it a violation of the Constitution to deficit spend, unless there is an extraordinary vote of the Congress or an extraordinary reason to do so.

Thirdly, we believe that the third point that we would advance is what we call climbing out of the deficit ditch. That is, there should be a plan to restore balance to our Federal books, and that, of course, is going to be an issue that we get to talk about a lot in the near future because of the need to raise the Federal debt ceiling.

Fourthly, the fourth part of our ABCs is Defending Our Children From Paying Our Bills Act. This would require a supermajority to borrow money by the U.S. Congress. Many in this

Chamber have, over the years, proposed that we would require a three-fifths vote to consider legislation that would raise taxes or some other sort of supermajority. Many of the Members of Congress support this notion, and we think that there ought to be also legislation which would require a three-fifths vote to borrow money.

I would like at this time to call on Members of the Blue Dogs, Mr. Speaker, that are in the Chamber. I would like to yield first to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PHELPS).

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD) for yielding. Let me first express my sincere appreciation for his leadership. He has been a consistent Member of Congress, not only of our Blue Dog Coalition, that has been steady at the helm in trying to bring attention to a problem with deficit spending and the need for balancing the budget and staying within our means. I appreciate coming on after his leadership being here before I entered Congress and helping us steer this direction. So I thank all my fellow Blue Dogs for giving me the opportunity to speak about a very important issue.

This is not our first and only time of trying to make this issue more paramount and put emphasis on what really needs to be done as we get through this session in terms of the money that is available and what we have hanging over our heads as debt in this country and the priority of our spending needs and how we should look at balancing the budget.

So tonight I just want to focus my time on discussing the Blue Dog plan for putting the budget back in order, starting with fiscal discipline. The Blue Dogs have consistently focused on fiscal discipline, having advocated honesty and responsibility in the budgeting process.

When Congress considered the budget last year, the Blue Dogs warned then about the danger of making long-term commitments for tax cuts or new spending programs based on projected surpluses. The projected surpluses were based on the very best of the situation that we were realizing through the high peaks of the economy in the last several years. That is not good, sound fiscal policy, to base anything on the very best. I believe we should look at the more reasonable moderate projections.

We did not. So, in less than a year's time, we have seen a dramatic reversal of the once promising budgetary outlook. We now face projections of deficits and increasing debt for the rest of the decade that go far beyond the temporary impact of the economic downturn or cost of the war on terrorism.

Congress and the President need to sit down, roll up our sleeves and have an honest discussion about what we need to put the budget back in order, starting with the ABCs of the fiscal situation we bring to your attention tonight.